

VIA eFILE

PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No. 16497.43

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|----------------------|------------------------|------------|
| In re application of | |) |
| | |) |
| | T. Daniel Gross et al. |) |
| | |) |
| Serial No.: | 10/027,681 |) Art Unit |
| | |) 3734 |
| Filed: | December 21, 2001 |) |
| | |) |
| Conf. No.: | 2036 |) |
| | |) |
| For: | SUTURE TRIMMER |) |
| | |) |
| Examiner: | Diane D. Yabut |) |
| | |) |
| Customer No.: | 57360 |) |

RELATED CASES AND PROSECUTION CORRESPONDENCE THEREFROM

VIA eFILE IDS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is to inform the Examiner that the following applications may be related by priority and/or in content to the above-identified patent application:

- | | | | |
|----|------------|----|----------------|
| 1. | 10/004,817 | 5. | 11/461,243 |
| 2. | 10/324,730 | 6. | 11/465,035 |
| 3. | 10/661,155 | 7. | PCT/US02/39151 |
| 4. | 10,860,443 | 8. | PCT/US02/41293 |

Furthermore, Applicants have enclosed a list of applications and prosecution correspondence associated with those applications that may be related to the present application. The prosecution correspondence may include office actions, office action responses, notices of allowance, issue notifications, and/or prosecution correspondence presented in related case(s).

However, no representation is made that any supplied prosecution correspondence may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103.

Pursuant to instruction from the Office of Patent Legal Administration (OPLA), copies of these documents are not provided as any Examiner has ready access to any and all prosecution correspondence. Although many of the supplied prosecution correspondence was previously provided in a prior Information Disclosure Statement, the table below identifies each piece of prosecution correspondence by document number, date, and document type for easy reference.

Prosecution Correspondence

| | <u>Serial Number</u> | <u>Mail Date</u> | <u>Document</u> |
|-----|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | 10/004817 | 12/18/2002 | Office Action |
| 2. | 10/004817 | 7/28/2003 | Notice of Allowance |
| 3. | 10/004817 | 2/4/2004 | Notice of Allowance |
| 4. | 10/004817 | 5/20/2004 | Issue Notification |
| 5. | 10/324730 | 3/27/2006 | Office Action |
| 6. | 10/324730 | 8/8/2006 | Office Action |
| 7. | 10/324730 | 1/29/2007 | Office Action |
| 8. | 10/324730 | 8/30/2007 | Notice of Allowance |
| 9. | 10/661155 | 8/31/2005 | Office Action |
| 10. | 10/661155 | 2/23/2006 | Notice of Allowance |
| 11. | 10/661155 | 8/2/2006 | Issue Notification |
| 12. | 10/860443 | 5/17/2006 | Office Action |
| 13. | 10/860443 | 10/2/2006 | Notice of Allowance |
| 14. | 10/860443 | 11/22/2006 | Issue Notification |

Because, according to the OPLA, the supplied prosecution correspondence will not be cited on the cover of any future granted patent, no Examiner's initials line has been provided to indicate that each document has been reviewed. However, as the Examiner has a duty to consider all materials within the application file, the supplied prosecution correspondence should be reviewed and considered.

Furthermore, because the supplied related cases and prosecution correspondence therefrom is not an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR 1.97, but rather is supplied in accordance with the direction of the Office of Patent Legal Administration, Applicants respectfully submit that no statements under 37 CFR 1.97(e) are necessary and further submit that no fee is required for this document. However, in the event that a fee is required, please charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3178 of the undersigned.

Dated this 19th day of March, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

/Fraser D. Roy, Reg.# 45666/

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